

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 MC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2745

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK TH

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, TH

SUBJ: NATION ARTICLE QUOTE MASSIVE THEFTS FROM US BASES UNQUOTE

1. FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN 7 OCTOBER NATION, QUOTING AN UNNAMED SOURCE AT THE AMMUNITION DEPARTMENT AT VAYAMA PORT, STATES THAT QUOTE MORE THAN HALF A MILLION BAHT'S WORTH (\$25,000) OF AMMUNITION HAS GONE MISSING DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS FROM US MILITARY WAREHOUSES AT SATTAHIP AND DURING TRANSPORT BETWEEN BASES UNQUOTE. AMMUNITION LOSSES FOR THE THREE MONTHS WERE GIVEN AS:

JULY: 1680 ROUNDS OF 5.56 MM
2595 ROUNDS OF 40 MM

AUGUST: 300 ROUNDS OF 7.62 MM
2900 ROUNDS OF 5.56 MM
48 EXPLOSIVE FUSES (LOST BETWEEN TAKHLI AND SATTAHIP)

SEPTEMBER: 160,650 ROUNDS OF .45 CAL. (BETWEEN SATTAHIP AND
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KORAT)

1,680 ROUNDS OF 12-GAUGE SHELLS

77,470 ROUNDS OF 5.56 MM TRACER

2. THE ARTICLE FURTHER INDICATED THAT THE LARCENIES SEEMED TO BE INCREASING AS THE TARGET DATE FOR TROOP WITHDRAWALS APPROACHED AND THAT NEITHER THE RTG NOR US MILITARY AUTHORITIES SEEMED VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM. IN ADDITION TO AMMUNITION, LUMBER, MATTRESSES, FENCE LINE, TELEPHONES, CIRCUIT BREAKERS, A SAFE AND OTHER GOODS WERE REPORTED AS STOLEN AND THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT, BECAUSE OF THE LARGE QUANTITIES TAKEN, MUCH HAD ENDED UP IN TERRORIST HANDS.

3. EXCEPT FOR THE ALLEGATION THAT THE US MILITARY IS NOT CONDUCTING ANY INVESTIGATION (THE ARMY CID HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE CASE FOR SOME WEEKS), THE FACTUAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE IS CORRECT.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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